

Morning Sermon May 30, 2021
“Overcoming, Gaining the Victory!” – Revelation 12:11

I. What is it to overcome?

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.
Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)

1. By the blood of the Lamb (Jesus Christ) –

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb ... Revelation 12:11
A (NKJV)

A. The “him” referred to in this verse is the serpent, the Devil, Satan – Revelation 12:9

B. He is “the accuser of our brethren” – Revelation 12:10

C. We overcome Him because when he accuses us of sin, which is true about every one of us – Christ’s blood, the Lamb’s blood has already washed and redeemed us -

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, ... To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5

... and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, ... ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy ... For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, Revelation 5:8–9 (NKJV)

2. We overcome the world by the New Birth, and by our faith –

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:4–5 (NKJV)

We are instructed in Scripture:

A. Not to love the world – John 2:15-17

B. Not to be conformed to the world – Romans 12:2

C. We are told by Jesus Christ, in the world we will have tribulation, but He (Jesus) has overcome the world – John 16:33

D. The new birth makes us new creatures and gives us a new vision for a different world – John 3:3; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16, 2 Corinthians 5:17

3. By the word of our testimony –

and by the word of their testimony, ... Revelation 12:11 B (NKJV)

A. Not referring to going in front of a church a praying the sinner’s prayer along with a pastor ...

B. A testimony is not a one-time thing, but a lifetime thing -

C. The Greek word for testimony here is *martyria*, from which we get our English word martyr, which refers to a person dying for their faith!

If it is illegal to be a true Christian, a crime punishable by death, a testimony means boldly standing with Christ, this is overcoming! This is true faith, believing Christ –

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. John 11:25 (NKJV)

4. By not loving their lives... in this condemned world - ... and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11 C (NKJV)

Lot’s wife was a woman who loved her life in Sodom ... Luke 17:32

5. We overcome, when we resist the temptation to sin –

6. By not loving their lives... in this condemned world - ... and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11 C (NKJV)

7. In a variety of other ways, by repenting, returning to first love, by resisting lukewarmness ...

II. We should be encouraged to overcome by the various rewards promised to those who overcome, all can be YOURS –

This is promised even to individuals whose churches were not the best

1. Ephesus - Eating from the tree of life – Revelation 2:7
⁷ ... To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”’ Revelation 2:7 (NKJV)
 - A. Eating of this tree is connected to “eternal life” – Genesis 3:22-24
 - B. Note in Genesis 3 this tree is off limits because of sin!
 - C. But its benefits are available in the New Jerusalem –
Revelation 22:2 -
2. Smyrna - A crown of life, and not being hurt by the second death – Revelation 2:10 B – 11
... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”’ Revelation 2:10–11 (NKJV)

They were not cowards in Smyrna, but willing to die for Christ -

⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”’ Revelation 21:8 (NKJV)
3. Pergamos - Hidden manna, and a white stone with a new name (for you on it) on it, and that name is a secret name, between you and God – Revelation 2:17
¹⁷ ... To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”’ Revelation 2:17 (NKJV)
 - A. Hidden manna, spiritual food, rather than food offered to idols or sexual immorality
 - B. A white stone: acquittal of guilt / invitation to a feast
 - C. A new name, something Christ did for Simon who became Peter, or Jacob who was renamed Israel ...

4. Thyatira - Power over the nations, plus the morning star –
Revelation 2:26-28

²⁶ And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—²⁷ ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—as I also have received from My Father; ²⁸ and I will give him the morning star. Revelation 2:26–28 (NKJV)

- A. Similar temptations as Pergamos, including sexual immorality and food offered to idols...
- B. But a different reward for overcoming – oriented to self-control / rule
5. Sardis - A white garment and a name not blotted out of the Book of Life, but confessed by Christ – Revelation 3:4-5
⁴You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. Revelation 3:4–5 (NKJV)
6. Philadelphia - Will be made a pillar in God’s Temple, the name, New Jerusalem will be written on him, and Christ’s new name as well – Revelation 3:12
¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. Revelation 3:12 (NKJV)

7. Laodicea - Granted to sit with Christ on His throne – Revelation 3:21

²¹ To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. Revelation 3:21 (NKJV)

What the Laodiceans would overcome would be lukewarm attitudes, they were not hot for Christ! Overcoming assumes they would be hot! They would value their relationship with Christ! As a reward, they would be with Him, on His throne!